

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 16-18 have been withdrawn as the result of a restriction requirement.

Claims 2 and 13 have been amended to correct typographical errors.

Claims 2 and 9 have been amended to address antecedent basis issues.

Claim 1 has been amended to further clarify the claimed invention. Support for this amendment is found in at least paragraph [25] of the specification.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

The Examiner objects to claims 2-11 and 13 as containing several informalities. Applicants have amended the claim to address these objections. Therefore, the Examiner is requested to withdraw the objections.

PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 6-10, 12 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by O'Grady. Applicants traverse these rejections because the O'Grady fails to disclose or suggest all of the claim limitations. Specifically, O'Grady fails to disclose or suggest at least the following limitations:

deodorizing means located underneath the inlet in an essentially dry area,
for deodorizing air underneath the inlet is the essentially dry area

The odor trap according to claim 1 is comprises a deodorizing means. The deodorizing means prevents the propagation of odor. The deodorizing means is located underneath the inlet in an essentially dry area and is able to deodorize air. Therefore, the deodorizing means is not exposed to a flow of liquid and can be preserved for a significantly long period of time.

O'Grady, on the other hand, discloses a sewer trap, which has a hollow gas-cap with perforations in an inner wall. The gas-cap is filled with disinfectant material. The effect of the disinfectant is not produced except when water is forced under extreme pressure out of the column of water between the discharging-vessel and the side wall of the gas (page 1, lines 40-50).

Under normal conditions, the disinfectant has no effect. The sewer trap is therefore not suitable as an odor trap for a waterless or low-flush urinal. The disinfectant is used to destroy noxious gases in drain pipes. It is therefore not the claimed deodorizing means and would not prevent the propagation of odor. The disinfectant is exposed to water, as noted above, and therefore is not in an essentially dry area. If the disinfectant was in a dry area, it would have no effect. Therefore, for at least these reasons, O'Grady does not disclose nor suggest the claimed odor trap.

Regarding claims 2, 3 and 6-10, 12 and 13 they should be allowable at least based on their dependence from claim 1.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-5, 10, 11, 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Keller. Applicants traverse these rejections because the Keller fails to disclose or suggest all of the claim limitations. Specifically, Keller fails to disclose or suggest at least the following limitations:

deodorizing means located underneath the inlet in an essentially dry area,
for deodorizing air underneath the inlet is the essentially dry area

Keller discloses an odor trap provided with a float with an upper closure 41. The float rotates when liquid flows past in large amounts. The float and closure 41 are not in an essentially dry area. The closure may prevent the propagation of odor but is not a deodorizing means in the sense of the claimed invention, as it is not able to deodorize air. Therefore, for at least these reasons, Keller does not disclose nor suggest the claimed odor trap.

Regarding claims 2-5, 10, 11, 14 and 15 they should be allowable at least based on their dependence from claim 1.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/801,727

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

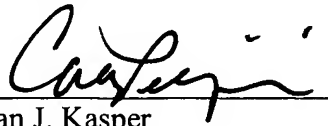
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